(d) None of these three OMCs has reported any case of benami operation of its retail outlets in the State during the last three years.

Potential of setting up a new oil refinery in Andhra Pradesh

4281. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at any time Government did any surveys or studies on the potential of setting up an oil refinery at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study on the physical feasibility of setting up an oil refinery near the cast gas resources in the Godavari delta in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if not, the plans of Government to locate an oil refinery at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of such plans which were at any time studied with regard to their potential and commercial viability?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government have no plan or proposals to set up an oil refinery at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh. However, the Refineries Sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries. Public Sector Undertakings may consider setting up a refinery in accordance with the decision-making authority delegated to them by Government *vide* Department of Public Enterprises' Office Memorandum No. DPE/11(2)/97-Fin. dated 22.7.1997.

Review of subsidies on oil products

4282. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed certain observations of the Asian Development Bank in its recent annual publication "Asian Development Outlook", highlighting *inter alia* that the State subsidies on oil products are doing great harm in India and some other South East Asian member-countries, inasmuch as they are poorly targeted, often distorting resource